

**To:** Poy, Thomas[poy.thomas@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Deltoral, Miguel[deltoral.miguel@epa.gov]; Bair, Rita[bair.rita@epa.gov]; Porter, Andrea[porters.andrea@epa.gov]; Bosscher, Valerie[bosscher.valerie@epa.gov]  
**From:** Fulghum, Mary  
**Sent:** Thur 4/6/2017 9:09:28 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Mayor Copeland Announces Major and Comprehensive Initiatives to Address The Superfund Site Issues

Just FYI -A bit about LSL

---

**From:** Garypie, Catherine  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2017 4:04 PM  
**To:** Kaiser, Steven; Chingcuanco, Leonardo; Fulghum, Mary; Toney, Marcy  
**Subject:** FW: Mayor Copeland Announces Major and Comprehensive Initiatives to Address The Superfund Site Issues

FYI

**From:** Arcaute, Francisco  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2017 4:03 PM  
**To:** Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Garypie, Catherine <garypie.catherine@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Mayor Copeland Announces Major and Comprehensive Initiatives to Address The Superfund Site Issues

fyi

**From:** Lauren Cross [<mailto:lauren.cross@nwitimes.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 4:01 PM  
**To:** Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Mayor Copeland Announces Major and Comprehensive Initiatives to Address The Superfund Site Issues

Hi all,

The Times just received this press release from Mayor Copeland. If possible, can the EPA address some of the comments/allegations in bold below?

Lauren

**From:** Steve Segura [<mailto:SSegura@eastchicago.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 3:56 PM

**Subject:** Mayor Copeland Announces Major and Comprehensive Initiatives to Address The Superfund Site Issues

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Segura

City of East Chicago Multimedia Division

Phone: 219-391-8206

Fax: 219-391-8224

[ssigura@eastchicago.com](mailto:ssigura@eastchicago.com)

### **Mayor Copeland Announces Major and Comprehensive Initiatives to Address The Superfund Site Issues**

*Mayor Calls for Access to EPA Reports, Proposes Funding for Water  
Filters and Announces Plans for Water Line Improvements in Superfund  
Area*

Mayor Anthony Copeland announced a series of initiatives designed to address many of the substantiated issues that are impacting residents of East Chicago, especially those in the areas designated as a Superfund site by the federal government.

Deemed **“Project Openness and Transparency”**, the Mayor will be working with neighborhood organizations, faith-based groups, other East Chicago-based residents and federal and state officials to build support for those efforts.

“The time for action is now. We have moved this problem to the attention of those at the highest levels of the federal and state governments. When we started working on this problem alone years ago, we kept telling those in power that our community needed help and needed support. Time after time, we told those in power at the state and federal levels that we wanted to be a partner in addressing the myriad issues that have impacted our community at this Superfund site. We deserve the opportunity to be that partner and to work together with state and federal officials to move our community ahead for this and future generations,” said Mayor Copeland.

“We have been pleased with the support of Governor Eric Holcomb. He has been accessible and has been genuine in his dealings with our community and with our leadership in City government. I look forward to working with him to convince federal officials that we want to work as partners,” Copeland continued.

In making the decision to move ahead with a three (3) point action plan, Copeland stated that he has listened to the concerns of local residents, worked with his public utilities staff and sought the counsel of the City’s legal and financial advisors. Mayor Copeland said, “We will continue to be transparent in our dealings with the people of East Chicago. This is my community and I have lived here all of my life. That’s why we will continue to make sure that East Chicago gets its fair share of tax dollars and support from state and federal governments.”

### **Mayor Copeland’s Plan:**

**First, we are asking the Environmental Protection Agency to provide us with a report of their discussions with the “responsible parties” charged with funding**

the abatement of contamination in the Superfund area. “I continue to be amazed that the Environmental Protection Agency would prevent the City of East Chicago from knowing what discussions and agreements they reached with those responsible for the contamination of the West Calumet neighborhood. Knowing the result of those discussions would better enable our community and the City of East Chicago to make plans for improvements in the area. This is not a time for secrecy---it is a time to be open and transparent,” the Mayor remarked.

Second, we agree with Governor Holcomb that residents in the Superfund area should have access to free water filters so that the incidence of lead pollution **is reduced once construction work relative to remediation starts**. “The Governor made the right decision and we support anything that we can do to ensure that our residents are confident that their water is clean. To make sure that happens, we will be a partner and make an investment of City funds in the area. I have directed our staff to determine the costs necessary to provide a match from City funds to defray the costs of water filters for residents in the Superfund site area. Our funds will be used to match the funds offered by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. We believe in partnerships for progress and this decision reinforces that commitment,” Mayor Copeland stated.

Third, Mayor Copeland mentioned that the City had proposed a series of initiatives to garner state support so that we could positively and conclusively move ahead with making capital improvements across our community. We proposed that funds be used in all areas of our community to replace water lines from their origin to the interiors of our homes. Last year, state officials rejected that proposal. With that idea rejected, we developed alternative plans that made effective use of tax dollars to benefit our residents.

As part of our openness and transparency efforts, **we plan to start the replacement of old water lines through all areas of the Superfund site. Funding for that work is the result of negotiating a better interest rate with state officials on a future financing package for systemwide infrastructure improvements. Mayor Copeland plans to ask EPA representatives to help reduce the costs to East Chicagoans by agreeing to accept soil removed from those sites at a designated area already holding previously removed soil.** “The goal here is simple—to use our tax dollars and any associated interest savings to deliver quality services to the people of East Chicago. That’s why we are working with state officials to completely replace water lines in the Superfund site area. That’s also why we will ask the EPA to help us save additional tax dollars,” Mayor Copeland remarked.

Finally, the Mayor provided additional information about the redevelopment of the Superfund site. "I have previously stated that when I took the Oath of Office as Mayor, one of the most important responsibilities was to ensure the safety and security of those who call East Chicago their home. As a lifelong resident of our community, I would never advocate moving residents from their homes involuntarily unless we faced an issue of public safety. **After months of review by federal authorities charged with ensuring the safety and security of our residents, a decision has been made to move the remaining residents from their homes in an area contaminated by the presence of lead in the soil, in the homes and in some cases, in the air. Please remember that those recommendations were made by medical and health professionals in consultation with staffers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.**

**After years of delay, EPA officials now want us to make rapid decisions about the future of our community. That is not feasible until many of the concerns that I mentioned earlier are addressed. We need to be a partner in this process and to know what the EPA has proposed with those who contaminated this neighborhood.** We are asking that the EPA work with us to provide sites for the removal of contaminated soil once we begin work in the area. And, we will continue to work with diverse groups to ensure an open and transparent process for the redevelopment of the Superfund site. We believe that every effort should be made to return this area to what it was before polluters wreaked havoc on our community---a residential area with residential standards in place. Leadership does require building consensus and our plan is built on consensus-building so that East Chicago can continue to be a better place to live for this and future generations," stated Mayor Anthony Copeland.

-30-

#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd**, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a **safer and more useful** place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out more [Click Here](#).